

Message Text

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PAGE 01 GUATEM 02920 112157Z
ACTION ARA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SP-02 INR-07 L-03 PM-04 SS-15 /042 W
-----112250Z 030095 /62 S

P R 112049Z MAY 77
FM AMEMBASSY GUATEMALA
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 5949
INFO AMEMBASSY MANAGUA
AMEMBASSY SAN JOSE
AMEMBASSY SAN SALVADOR
AMEMBASSY TEGUCIGALPA

C O N F I D E N T I A L GUATEMALA 2920

STADIS////////////////////////////////////

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: MASS, GT, US
SUBJ: FY 1978 IMETP FOR GUATEMALA

REF: (A) STATE 104904, (B) GUATEMALA 2321

1. WE UNDERSTAND THAT IN HOUSE AND SENATE COMMITTEE ACTION ON FY 1978 SECURITY ASSISTANCE AUTHORIZATION, ADMINISTRATION'S PROPOSAL OF \$1.5 MILLION IN FMS CREDIT FOR GUATEMALA HAS BEEN DELETED, ALONG WITH FMS CREDIT FOR THE THREE OTHER LATIN AMERICAN COUNTRIES VOLUNTARILY RENOUNCING ANY ASSISTANCE THAT IS CONDITIONED ON PUBLIC US REPORTING ON THEIR HUMAN RIGHTS RECORDS. WE FURTHER UNDERSTAND THAT IMETP FOR TWO OF THE FOUR COUNTRIES, ARGENTINA AND BRAZIL, HAS BEEN TENTATIVELY APPROVED, ALTHOUGH IT MAY HAVE TO BE TERMINATED AT END OF FY 1978. IMETP FOR EL SALVADOR AND GUATEMALA - A MATTER OF ONLY \$600,000 IN GUATEMALA'S CASE - WILL PROBABLY BE DELETED ENTIRELY, AS MATTERS NOW LOOK IN CONGRESS.

2. ALTHOUGH GOG'S NOTE RENOUNCING US MILITARY AID SEEMS DEFINITE ENOUGH, THE ATTITUDE OF THE SENIOR MILITARY
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HERE NEVERTHELESS REMAINS AMBIGUOUS AND WE HAVE HAD INDICATIONS THAT SOME ELEMENTS IN MILITARY MAY EXPECT AT LEAST THE IMETP TO CONTINUE FOR FY 1978. WE CONTINUE TO BELIEVE THAT THE OPPORTUNITY TO TRAIN AND ORIENT THE GUATEMALAN MILITARY IS IMPORTANT TO THE USG, AND THAT IT IS THE MOST VALUABLE PART OF OUR MAP IN THE EYES OF BOTH GOVERNMENTS. IF THE DOOR TO CONTINUED TRAINING IS NOT

SLAMMED BY CONGRESS, THERE IS A CHANCE WE MAY BE ABLE TO
RETAIN THIS PROGRAM.

3. IT IS ONE THING, IN OUR VIEW, FOR THE CONGRESS TO
TERMINATE MILITARY ASSISTANCE TO COUNTRIES WHERE THERE
IS SERIOUS CONCERN ABOUT HUMAN RIGHTS VIOLATIONS. IT IS
QUITE ANOTHER THING TO CONTINUE ASSISTANCE TO TWO SUCH
COUNTRIES - ARGENTINA AND BRAZIL - BUT DISCONTINUE IT
TO GUATEMALA WHERE NO SERIOUS CURRENT CHARGES EXIST OR
HAVE BEEN MADE.

4. WE HAD HOPED THAT OUR POSTURE WOULD SAY TO THE
GUATEMALANS, "THE OPPORTUNITY FOR US ASSISTANCE IS STILL
THERE. IF YOU DECIDE NOT TO UTILIZE IT, BECAUSE OF YOUR
SENSITIVITY OVER THE HUMAN RIGHTS ISSUE, THAT IS YOUR
DECISION, NOT OURS." PROSPECTIVE CONGRESSIONAL ACTION
WOULD ELIMINATE POSSIBILITY OF THAT APPROACH AND WOULD
MAKE IT APPEAR TO GOG THAT US IS SEEKING OPPORTUNITIES
TO CUT TIES BETWEEN OUR COUNTRIES AND DOWNGRADE OUR
RELATIONS. COMBINED WITH PROBLEMS IN OTHER AREAS (SHIPPING,
BELIZE), WE ARE SERIOUSLY CONCERNED ABOUT THE EFFECT OF
CONGRESSIONAL ACTION ON OUR WHOLE RELATIONSHIP WITH
GUATEMALA.

5. WE URGE AN EFFORT BY THE DEPARTMENT TO INSURE THAT
GUATEMALA IS TREATED AT LEAST ON EQUAL BASIS WITH OTHER
RENOUNCING COUNTRIES.

6. WE HAVE MADE THIS MESSAGE STADIS BECAUSE REFTELS ON
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WHICH IT IS BASED ARE STADIS. IF DEPARTMENT SEES NO
OBJECTION TO REMOVAL OF STADIS CAPTION, EMBASSY REQUESTS
THIS CABLE BE REPEATED TO SECDEF, JCS, AND USCINCSO.
BOSTER

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: Z
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Sent Date: 11-May-1977 12:00:00 am
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Disposition Action: RELEASED
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From: GUATEMALA
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Litigation Codes:
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